

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2003
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr Queen Creek,
Chairman
Mayor Joan Shafer Surprise, Vice Chairman
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor John Keegan, Peoria

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park,
Member Elect

* Not present

Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:20 p.m.

2. Approval of the December 9, 2002 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Shafer moved to approve the December 9, 2002 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Keegan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Executive Director Approval

The Executive Committee recessed the meeting to go into executive session at 12:21 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and for legal advice relating to the potential approval of a new MAG Executive Director and the potential terms of the employment agreement. At 12:30 p.m., the Executive Committee meeting was reconvened.

Vice Chair Shafer moved to approve the appointment of Dennis Smith as the MAG Executive Director and to approve the employment agreement, subject to ratification by the MAG Regional Council. Mayor Keegan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Followup Regarding Regional Council Retreat

Chairman Wendy Feldman-Kerr summarized the discussions at the MAG Regional Council Retreat, which was held on January 10, 2003. She asked if the Committee had any discussion regarding the retreat. Mayor Thomas recognized the importance of encouraging participation in meetings. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that there was mentioned concern regarding lack of

participation and some ideas to improve attendance. Mayor Manross suggested that Dennis meet with city and town Councils. Mr. Smith stated that MAG is working on a booklet/handbook to use at subregional workshops.

Mayor Hawker stated that he almost did not attend the retreat because the agenda was not that attracting. He noted that a more detailed agenda would be more enticing. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that it was requested to have that level of retreat. She noted that the members did not want to act or vote on anything at the retreat. Communication and a vision for this coming year was the focus. Chairman Feldman-Kerr noted that we will look for a middle ground next retreat. Mayor Manross commented on the importance of conversation to see what people are thinking. She noted that there was good conversation at the retreat and believe that the members can learn from conversation. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that if there were more people in attendance than there would be more discussion. Vice Chair Shafer stated that the retreats need more discussion regarding the whole Valley, such as a report on Luke and the Department of Commerce. Mayor Thomas stated that he offered to have Mayor Hawker visit Litchfield Park in the West Valley to see some of the issues the West Valley is dealing with. Mayor Hawker stated that we have very talented and experienced mayors that should be facilitating the retreats. He suggested that we have a focus on a city idea or problem with discussion and learn from the experience of others. Mayor Keegan agreed with Mayor Hawker that the retreat agenda was not very enticing.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr asked how the location worked for everyone. Mayor Keegan stated that the location did not really matter as much as the issues discussed. Mr. Smith stated that the original point was that the TPC retreat focused on relationships and dialogue, and a cohesiveness came from the TPC retreat. Mayor Keegan suggested that cities and towns farther out combine trips. Mayor Manross stated that she would be glad to carpool with the tribal community representative. She explained the importance of the MAG meetings to her and her community. Mayor Shafer expressed the importance of community such as Buckeye getting involved. She noted that Buckeye's growth will effect the surrounding communities.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr suggested having three traveling meetings a year in a member agency's community. Mayor Manross stated that she thought that would be a good idea and offered Scottsdale as one of the first meeting places. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that we can highlight the community at the Regional Council meeting. Mayor Keegan stated that we tried that and it died fast. He noted that people would leave the meeting. Mayor Keegan commented that he did not see the value in rotating meeting locations. He personally likes the central location, which helps in scheduling other meetings in advance. He stated that the traveling is inconvenient, but if it works to bring communities into the meetings then it should be considered. Mayor Hawker commented that the idea of traveling meetings did not excite him. He believes that traveling is an issue and it is more labor intensive to set up. Chairman Feldman-Kerr suggested offsetting the meetings by showcasing a community. Mayor Hawker stated that he would be interested in touring other communities, whether before the Regional Council meetings or some other time. Mayor Thomas stated that traveling to other communities is not inconvenient for him because he works in downtown Phoenix, which is central. Mayor Shafer stated that he thought it was important to visit other communities and understand their challenges and problems.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr suggest further discussion on the tour idea and carpooling. Mr. Smith commented on dealing with the change in demographics and how the balance of power is shifting. Mayor Shafer stated that member agencies need to actually visualize how they would tie the entire Valley together.

5. Outreach to MAG Member Agencies

Tom Remes discussed reaching out to the MAG member agencies and providing information on the mission and programs of MAG and how MAG can be helpful to the member agencies. He distributed an outline of a member hand book. He noted that this handbook would be easy to read, bring member agencies up to speed, explain what MAG does and be a great resource book. Mr. Remes noted how, in several instances, councilmembers became Mayors and the importance of engaging councilmembers early on. He suggested that after the completion of the handbook, subregional or community meetings be set to go out and inform our member agencies about MAG. Mayor Keegan stated that it is worthwhile to broaden the audience and have discussions regarding similar organizations in other communities. He noted the importance of understanding the federal law and legislative needs. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that the legislature needs to understand the role of MAG as an MPO.

6. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Becky Kimbrough gave a report on the development of the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. She stated that in order to provide an earlier start in developing the Work Program and Budget, a draft time line was developed that recommends providing information earlier, review of the Work Program and Budget in March, and final review in May. Ms. Kimbrough provided an update on the status of the budget, with inflation and without inflation. She noted that the ADOT inflation factor is 3.94 percent. Ms. Kimbrough stated that based on the feedback received, staff is recommending that the inflationary increase be deferred in the member agency dues and assessments. Mr. Smith stated that Apache Junction took the biggest hit because of its fast growth. He noted that most member agencies are paying less than last year. Mayor Hawker asked why Apache Junction was not paying any dues and assessments for 2003. Ms. Kimbrough stated that she would have to double check that because she believes that they did pay. Mr. Smith indicated that he thought Apache Junction had paid dues and assessments for FY 2003.

Ms. Kimbrough reviewed the time line. She suggested two video conferencing meetings to discuss new project and items. Ms. Kimbrough stated that the three budget workshops that were held last year were not very cost effective. She suggested that holding budget meetings this year via videoconferencing. Mr. Smith noted that last year the budget was explained all at once. He noted that member agencies suggested bringing forward pieces of the budget. Mayor Hawker agreed that videoconferencing was a big effort and members need to use it more. Mayor Keegan suggested video taping the budget meetings and getting them out to the public via city channels and the government access channel. Kelly Taft stated that the Broadcast Feasibility Study determined that our videoconferencing system is not high enough quality to broadcast over some city channels. She noted that the tape needs to be professional quality. Chairman Feldman-Kerr suggested taping the

budget meetings at a city location that has professional quality. Mayor Hawker and Mayor Manross both offered their city's services to tape the budget meetings.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that she is working on an update on producing a summary budget. She noted that she is working with Peggy Carpenter on a format for the summary budget and submitted a draft for her review. A draft format of the summary budget will be submitted to the intergovernmental representatives, Management Committee and Regional Council for review.

Mayor Hawker asked why the 9-1-1 Planning Assessment for El Mirage was a difference of \$1,423. He requested that someone get back to him on that question.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary